LIFE & CULTURE

GREENHOUSE GURU SHARES PASSION WITH STUDENTS

»1C

SPORTS

AVS LOSE IN SHOOTOUT; UP NEXT, FIVE AT HOME

»1B

Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

THE DENVER POST

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EGYPT

Attack on mosque kills 235

Militants set off blast and gun down fleeing worshippers in Sinai.

By Heba Farouk Mahfouz and Kareem Fahim
The Washington Post

CAIRO» Militants set off a blast and gunned down fleeing worshippers at crowded mosque in Egypt's northern Sinai Peninsula on Friday, killing at least 235 people in what appeared to mark the deadliest single assault on Egyptian civilians by suspected Islamist extremists.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack on the mosque — which is often frequented by Sufi Muslims — where an apparent suicide bombing ripped across the facade and people were shot as they tried to scramble to safety.

Egyptian security forces have struggled for years against an Islamic State affiliate based in the Sinai Peninsula that has killed hundreds of police and military personnel in an insurgency against the government of President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi.

The mosque death toll, reported by state media, could not be independently confirmed. Yet Egyptians were already mourning it as the biggest loss of life from a militant attack in decades — surpassing the number of dead in the downing of a Russian airliner over Sinai in 2015 believed carried out by Islamic State-linked militants.

Islamist attacks have targeted Coptic Christian churches in the past, but strikes against mosques have been rare. Many Sunni Muslim militant factions consider Sufism, a mystical branch of Islam, to

EGYPT »7A

DRESSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Grand Illumination of Union Station marks the start of the holiday light season in Denver on Friday night. The LoDo District and the Union Station Alliance hosted the event at the 1894 downtown landmark, which included visits with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, holiday singing and dancing and live ice sculpting. The Denver City and County Building turned on its holiday lights, and Blossoms of Light began at the Denver Botanic Gardens. Denver Zoo Lights will kick off Dec. 1.

Andy Cross, The Denver Post

NET NEUTRALITY

Critics cite fake input by foes

By Brian Fung
The Washington Post

As the Federal Communications Commission prepares to dismantle its net neutrality rules for internet providers, a mounting backlash from agency critics is zeroing in on what they say are thousands of fake or automated comments submitted to the FCC that unfairly skewed the policy-making process.

Allegations about anomalies in the record are quickly becoming a central component of a campaign by online activists and some government officials to discredit the FCC's plan.

"The process the FCC has employed," wrote New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman this week in a letter to the FCC, "has been corrupted by the fraudulent use of Americans' identities."

For the past six months, Schneiderman continued, the New York attorney general's office has been reviewing the comments filed at the FCC on net neutrality. It found

FCC »7A

RETAIL SHOPPING

Malls stress holiday spirit to lure, and keep, patrons

By Danika Worthington
The Denver Post

This holiday season, expect to see updated decorations, more live entertainment and cutting-edge technology as malls in Colorado and across the nation work to draw shoppers out of their homes and into their halls.

To remain competitive, malls are embracing their strengths to create a greater sense of place, making the shopping center feel like a town square, where people want to socialize, put their hands on products and ask retailers questions about merchandise. To pull this off, the experience has to be enjoyable. And that's done by fully embracing the holiday spirit.

"This particular holiday season is going to be a fun one regardless of which shopping center you're at," said Pamela Kelly, senior general manager of Park Meadows shopping center in Lone Tree. "My perception — I've even seen it on the national news — is that everyone's putting a little more focus on it this year."

A survey by Proper Insights & Analytics for the National Retail Federation estimates that consumers will spend an average of $967 per person during this holiday season, which is up 3.4 percent. But for the first time in the NRF's survey, online was the most popular shopping destination, cited by 59 percent of consumers.

It's not doomsday for malls, though, as the second

MALL »11A

Audrey Cumberland, 5, left, dances Friday in the Santa's Flight Suit Visualizer with elf Katie Walker, right, at the Santa's Flight Academy in the Cherry Creek Shopping Center in Denver. *Andy Cross, The Denver Post*

BUSINESS

MARKETS HAVE RECORD DAY IN QUIET TRADING

U.S. stocks set more records in quiet post-holiday trading Friday as technology companies again did much of the heavy lifting. Energy companies rose with the price of oil. »10A

Stations back. Dish Network and CBS Corp. settle a fee dispute that returns CBS channels to Dish customers. »11A

NATION

TRUMP TO COURT GOP SENATORS FOR TAX REFORM

President Donald Trump will meet with Senate Republicans on Tuesday ahead of crucial votes in the GOP effort to pass a massive tax-cut package. Republicans can afford to lose only two votes, but six senators have not said if they will support the bill. »13A

Another $100 billion man. Amazon.com founder and chief executive Jeff Bezos becomes the second person whose net worth is more than $100 billion. Bill Gates was the first. »13A

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